

REMARKS

The application has been amended as needed so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action had objected to the drawings, as Figure 2 did not include a legend "Prior Art", since it only depicted that which is old.

A proposed replacement sheet accompanies this amendment, wherein the legend --Prior Art-- has been added to Figure 2.

The Official Action had objected to the disclosure, as it made reference to the claims in various passages of the specification. By the present amendment, it will be seen that any reference to the claims has been deleted from the specification, as requested by the Primary Examiner in his Official Action.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for indefinite. Specifically, the Official Action pointed out that these method claims contained no method steps. In addition, claims 4 and 8 contained a broad range or limitation together with a narrower range or limitation. Appropriate correction was requested.

By the present amendment, it will be seen that claims 1-15 have been cancelled and replaced with new-claims 16-31 which are believed to be free of any criticisms under 35 USC §112,

second paragraph. Specifically, when drafting new claims 16-31, great care was taken to ensure that the terms recited therein possessed proper antecedent basis. In addition, independent method claim 16 now recites method steps. Thus, new claims 16-31 are believed to set out and circumscribe a particular method for controlling the combustion process in a combustion engine, with a reasonable degree of precision and particularity, when read in light of the teachings of the original specification. It is respectfully submitted that a person having ordinary skill in the art would be reasonably apprised of the metes and bounds of new claims 16-31. Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 USC, §112, second paragraph, has been overcome and should not be applied to new claims 16-31.

The Primary Examiner had kindly indicated that claims 1-15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. By the present amendment, as was pointed out above, it is believed that the same has been effected.

The Official Action Summary sheet states that no copy of the certified priority document has been received in this national stage application. It is however pointed out that the US/EO indicated in the Notification of Missing Requirements mailed on June 19, 2002 (copy enclosed) that the priority document had in fact been received. Accordingly, the Primary

Examiner is kindly requested to acknowledge such receipt in the next Official Action.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance on the basis of new claims 16-31 are accordingly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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Benoit Castel, Reg. No. 35,041  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

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**APPENDIX:**

The Appendix includes the following items:

- a Replacement Sheet for Figure 2 of the drawings
- copy of Notification of Missing Requirements mailed  
June 19, 2002